

NOTES FROM ABROAD.

At the University of London recently, twenty-five ladies were presented for the A. B. degree, ten of them with honor, and two for the B. Sc. degree.

A practical reciprocity treaty, applying to imports and exports between the United States and Mexico, of mail packages of less than four and one-half pounds in weight, is in effect.

The British Museum has purchased one of the remaining impressions of Rembrandt's "Christ Healing the Sick" at a cost of \$6,500. There are only seven others in existence, one of which is valued at over \$10,000.

Reports are to the effect that the malarial climate of the Isthmus of Panama has reduced the number of laborers, by death, at the rate of sixty per cent. Out of seventy-two Frenchmen who went there a year ago, only eleven remain.

France ranks next to the United States as a wheat-producing nation; India raises hundreds of millions of bushels and exports large quantities; Russia pays little attention to wheat but grows rye as the staple bread food of her people.

In the great cathedral of Puebla, Mex., is an altar of exquisite workmanship, composed of colored marbles and onyx, the product of the State, and costing \$10,000. In the cathedral, also, is a huge bell weighing nine tons. About the altar are a great many highly-painted relics, among them being a thorn from the crown of Christ. The wealth of the cathedral has brought it into high standing with the great world at Rome.

The Russian Government is about to have a series of pipelines laid down for the conveyance of petroleum over the Suram Pass, a distance of thirty-five miles. At present the oil is transported over the pass in short trains of six tank-cars each, with two engines to each train. Upon the completion of the pipeline, the oil will be pumped from reservoirs at Michailova in the Tiflis side of the Pass, directly into similar reservoirs at Kizil, on the Batum side.

STREET-CAR travel in Mexico is at best a source of fear or annoyance to those of timid or sensitive dispositions, owing to the oppressive attentions of armed guards, several of which usually accompany each car, and the necessity of collecting fares, which necessitates the services of two conductors on each car, one to sell the tickets and the other to collect them. Instead of running at intervals, the cars are run in groups of three and four, about half an hour apart.

Some of the customs of the Comora Islands, in the Mozambique channel, are very singular. The natives are black-skinned Mohammedans, are clean in habit and strictly temperate. After marriage girls are not allowed out on the streets and can see no one save their husbands. Poor men are allowed but one wife, while the rich may have four. In extremity a man may sell a half interest in his wife at a stated price. None but the consent can have any liquor on his premises, any one else being subject to a heavy penalty. It is said there are no missionaries on these islands.

A LAW in force in Austria is the levying of a tax of four cents upon all persons found entering or leaving the house after ten o'clock at night. Thus, when going out calling you are compelled to put your hand in your pocket at every door, whether entering or leaving. This law occasions some singular customs, such as the closing of theaters before the hour of ten, reserves are emptied and the trains are crowded as the last moment of grace arrives. This tax is called the *sperrgeld*, and such is the force of habit that people will frequently depart in the midst of an entertainment rather than incur the tax.

One of the chief employments of the people of Makina in the eastern part of Africa is the smelting and working of iron, the ore of which is procured from the hills of Chiga. The manner of working is very primitive. A charcoal furnace is blown to a white heat by four separate blowers, worked by hand, consisting of skins of small deer, into each of which is bound a reed of clay, the mouth leading into the fire. The blast is a steady granitic; the hammer a heavy club of stone, slung with a long cord into grooves at its sides. Hoes, knives and axes are thus made at very cheap rates.

During the fifty years of Queen Victoria's reign the English national debt has been reduced six percent. This is a trifling compared with the reduction of more than that rate per year, and the English national debt is now much larger than our own. Its holders hope that the debt will never be paid, as an English consols, the interest, although only three percent, is more important than the principal. The great burden of the English debt dates back to the wars against Napoleon, early in the century, but within the fifty years of Victoria's reign the interest paid has been one hundred and fifty percent of the principal.

AN African traveler in a letter to a London paper describes a very singular water-fowl that frequents the streams in that country. "It was about the size of a duck with black, lustrous plumage, and on its wings a few light yellow feathers. The neck was very long and thin, and ended in a long, pointed beak, at the edge of which there were two rows of sharp teeth. At first no head was visible, and the neck appeared only to end in a beak. The whole body of the bird is under water while swimming; only the long neck was seen. If it was frightened it disappeared almost wholly under the water or flew rapidly away. Another peculiarity noticed was that when the bird left the water it lay down on a lush with outstretched wings to get dry."

The Sultan, Abdul Hamid, is thirty-eight years old, about the height of a giant, with dark hair and eyes, swarthy complexion, prominent nose and slender figure. The lower part of his face is covered by a full, black beard. He is not handsome, but has an intelligent expression. He is progressive for a Turk, and wishes to introduce some of the useful inventions that are known in more civilized countries, but in this he is opposed by his ministers. At present there are not five hundred miles of railroad in the whole of Turkey. He is contemplating a line from Constantinople to the Persian Gulf, in order to bring to Constantinople the rich products of the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates, as well as the valuable commerce of the East Indies, thus making his capital the great distributing center of Europe and Asia.

The following interesting statistics of the Jewish population of London are given in an English paper of a recent date. It is computed that the income of the London Jews is nearly \$5,000,000 per annum. The lowest estimate is \$3,875,431, which gives \$82 per head for 47,000 persons. The average income of the native population of the United Kingdom is only \$35, so that the Jews are two and a half times richer than the gentiles. It is estimated that 100 Jewish families in London have a yearly income of over \$1,000, 1,400 families an income of over \$500, and 800 an income of over \$200. Men with incomes of over \$200 a year are twenty times as numerous among Jews as among our own people; men with over \$1,000 a year are nearly seventeen times as numerous, and people with over \$500 a year are three times as numerous.

A FEW PRESS ODDITIES.

A GEORGIA man who was intending to plant a mulberry tree, thought so intently of the matter that he arose in a somnambulist state one night and performed the operation.

Some time since lightning struck a circus tent in which were a number of white men and negroes. The negroes were all killed by the shock but not a single white man was injured.

It is said that the skins of twenty-seven thousand sheep and goats have been used in manufacturing covers for the three hundred and twelve thousand sets of General Grant's books that have been sold.

Explosive water is the latest discovery in the South. A short time since a Wadesborough, N. C., man drew a bucket of well water which, after standing a few moments, exploded with great violence, bursting the bucket.

A FIVE-DOLLAR greenback appeared in the till of a Michigan bank the other day bearing the following inscription: "Here she goes—save your salary—don't gamble—never play far bank—the last of a fortune of \$10,000."

AN instance is related in a German paper of the detection of a specimen of the thread worm, peculiar to fowls, in a fresh egg. Although cases on record of this kind are very few, it would seem that there is some risk to human health and longevity in indulging in raw eggs.

The sea occupies three-fifths of the surface of the earth. At the depth of about 3,500 feet waves are not felt. The temperature is the same, varying only a trifle from the ice of the pole to the burning sun of the equator. A mile down the water has a pressure of over a ton to the square inch.

On the north shore of Lake Superior is a curious island known as the "Flower Pot." It is a mammoth moss-covered rock rising from the lake, full of dangerous crevices in which several persons are said to have been lost. The island has an abundance of wild game, but such are the dangers attendant upon its capture that none save an occasional Indian ventures in pursuit.

A GEORGIA correspondent of a scientific paper describes the manner in which a snake goes up a tree. On being approached, and being unable to retreat the snake rises on its rear to the tip of its tail and darted into the lower branches of a small tree under which it had paused. Having gained the tree it maintained its position by lateral pressure and not by coiling itself about the branches.

The singing sands of the South Pacific Islands are a source of pleasurable wonderment to all who have had an opportunity of observing the peculiar phenomena. While traveling the arid sands a person is prone to pause beneath an occasional coconut tree, and while resting there they are greeted by a faint musical tinkling which, as they listen, increases in volume. The melodious sounds proceed from the flinty sands as they are moved by the wind.

In the State of California grow a great many eucalyptus trees which have a very peculiar taste. Lately a well-known grower of one of these trees began to acquire a bitter taste in his water. As the well was cement-lined throughout the owner was at a loss to account for the change, until, upon investigation, he found that the water was affected by the tree, some twenty-five feet away. The roots of the tree had found an entrance to the well by means of a small, scabrous, in a wooden conductor pipe, and had filled up the bottom and thus tainted the water.

The habits of bats, while difficult to study, are most interesting. Generally one or two are produced at a birth, the young clinging to either male or female, and one at least being carried about in the air. There is good authority for believing that the female not only cares for its young, but is enabled to provide it with milk from its pectoral milk-glands. The little bats cling to the parents in various ways. The male of one species has a nursing pouch, in which it holds them, so relieving the mother, and sometimes while the mother holds the young the male places himself before her so that they are perfectly screened and protected.

In the Eastern seas, from Ceylon to Japan, there abounds a little fish, belonging to the genus *Chirolo*, which secures its prey by means of an instrument like the blow-pipe used by boys for projecting peas and putty. The nose of this fish is a sort of beak, through which it has the power of propelling a drop of water with force enough to bring down a fly. Its aim is very accurate, and it rarely misses its object. The unsuspecting victim sits on a weed or tuft of grass near the water; the fish cautiously approaches, stealthily projects its tube from the water, takes a sure aim, and lets fly, when down drops the insect, to be swallowed by its captor.

AGRICULTURAL AIDS.

The wheat growth of the United States is far in excess of that of any other country, yet it is estimated that the average acreage for the whole country is but twelve bushels.

Those who find pleasure in caring for sheep may care to hear that bean straw is an excellent article of food for them and they have been seen to leave good hay and vegetables for it and seemed to regard it as a dainty diet.

It is said by veterinarians that deep firing or blistering is the best treatment for ringworm, notwithstanding the resulting blemish. Take mercurial ointment, four ounces; powdered cantharides, half an ounce; rosemary, two drams. Mix thoroughly and apply.

In sowing grass seed care should be exercised to get it under the soil. Sowing on a fresh soil behind a sower or harrow is a good method, if a rain-storm does not follow and wash it out. One night's rain, by compacting the soil, has been known to cause a loss of almost an entire field.

The gooseberry bushes do best when they are well trimmed. They make very rank growth. It is the fruit that does best in partial shade, and if the midrow does not attack it a crop may always be looked for. They are not grown extensively for sale, but every farm or garden should have a space devoted to them.

When sheep are shorn the ticks which infest them leave and go upon the lambs, being averse to the light to which they are subjected by the removal of the wool. To relieve the lambs from these injurious pests dip in a decoction of tobacco and sulphur, one pound of the former and four of the latter in a gallon of boiling water. The lambs are dipped in this liquid when it is cooled.

A PARAGRAPH from an exchange says: "Peach trees growing near the house where dish and wash-water are thrown out are long-lived, free from worms, disease, etc. A hint can be had from this, showing that salt and alkali are what gives the result." A small grower had an orchard close by the house that was kept in a remarkably healthy and thrifty condition through the application of ashes from the fuel consumed, and wash-water, for some time, but which finally succumbed to the influence of disease. It will be a happy day for the more northern States when some perfectly effective remedy can be found for the disease of the peach.

WORKSHOP AND STUDY.

It is quite commonly known that gold will fuse only at a high temperature, but an authority on jewelry states that the addition of two per cent. of silica will render it fusible at a very low degree of heat.

A NEW scientific novelty is a lens that is flat on both sides. It is the product of a manufacturer of lenses at Jena, Germany. The lens consists of a single disk of varying density, the refractory power of which decreases on an inward scale.

Those who know say that a moist hand can be passed through molten iron without burning, a film of steam being evolved that prevents contact with the metal. In like manner gun-cotton can be burned on the hand and no heat felt, the moisture absorbing the heat as fast as it is evolved.

A PHILADELPHIA manufacturer is making copper-plated sheet steel that is said to be superior to solid copper for many purposes. The sheet is made of decarbonized steel and is electroplated with copper and tinned on one side. It is thought this new product will suggest additional uses for the metal.

Reports from Honduras on the products of the country inform us that there are large fields of pita or "silk grass," the fiber of which has been found to be almost equal to silk itself for manufacturing purposes. It is thought that, with suitable machinery, this product might form an important element of industry.

There is much variation in dairies in the feeding of cows, yet nearly all dairy dairies use in part the products of distilleries as cow feed. While malted grain may be beneficially used in part, it must be said of distillery still, that it is destructive of the health and condition of cattle and in a majority of cases productive of a tuberculous disease of the lungs, and renders the milk poor and worthless.

Report says that in Germany potash is made from an acid produced by the combustion of wood while burning into charcoal. By means of white tubes of plate-iron or copper, the acid and oil, which would otherwise be dissipated in the air, are collected; the watery acid part being then separated from the other, is evaporated to dryness, and the residuum by calcination affords an ash extremely rich in alkali.

The manufacture of solid carbonic acid gas has become an established industry in Berlin. The gas is generated by the action of acid on marble, is then subjected to enormous pressure at low temperature, whereby it is solidified, and is then pressed into molds. A cylinder of this solidified gas one and one-half inches in diameter and two inches long will last for upwards of five hours before disappearing once more as a gas.

From an account in the *Jewellers' Journal*, it is learned that an alloy faithfully resembling gold can be made with sixteen parts of copper, one part zinc, and seven parts platinum. The copper and platinum are covered first with borax and then with powdered charcoal and mold, then the zinc is added, and the alloy thus produced exceedingly malleable, and can be drawn out into the finest wire, and never tarnishes.

A NEW process of distilling turpentine recorded in a journal of science, is being practiced in the South. The pine wood is placed in iron retorts charged with superheated steam, and freed with wood from beneath. In six hours time crude turpentine and tar are distilled, from which gas, evolved in the operation, separates itself. The turpentine flows into a bath where it is refined and the tar is discharged in another direction.

If women are more easily frightened than men, it is as easy to attribute it to a more sensitive organization as to any other cause. Poets and musicians are not as cool and collected in the presence of danger as firemen, nor white men as the American Indians. Many people consider that the delicately balanced nervous organization of the horse indicates as high a degree of development as is to be found in more phlegmatic and thick-skinned varieties of animals.

An instance of what may be accomplished by energy and perseverance is given in a Southern paper. A man of employment conceived the idea of making baby-swingers. He started in with a very meager supply of implements and made one and sold it. He kept on making and selling them until people began to notice them and inquire for them. After a few years of close attention to business, he came to be at the head of an establishment with elaborate machinery, and supporting one hundred and fifty persons.

At a recent meeting of the School of Military Engineering, Chatham, Eng., elaborate experiments with "robusture," the new explosive, the invention of Dr. Carl Roth, a German chemist, were made, developing the superiority of the article for blasting in mines. It is composed of substances that are explosive separately, and that may be transported with perfect safety in any manner. These may be mixed and ground up in any kind of mill, and neither friction, percussion nor heat will produce an explosion, to accomplish which a detonator charged with fulminate of mercury is necessary. In addition to its harmless properties "robusture" is non-poisonous, does not give off noxious gases or flame and will not ignite fire-damp, while being more powerful than gun-cotton.

In regard to the cause of consumption, a writer in *Science* says: "The experimental together with the clinical study of tuberculosis has established the view that there are three factors in its causation. First, the presence of the parasite, the tubercle-bacillus, as a pathogenic element. This factor is necessary for the production of the disease. Second, heredity figures as a prominent element in about thirty per cent. of the cases ordinarily met with. Third, malhygienic and debilitating agents, such as foul air, sedentary occupations, violations of the laws of health, and diseases, have a powerful effect, by impairing the nutrition, in developing the disease. Heredity and lowered vitality can not of themselves produce tuberculosis, but they play an important role as factors, by rendering the individual more vulnerable to bacillary infection."

When we wonder at the rapidity with which deaf-mutes spell out their words on their fingers, says *Science*, we are apt to feel that this invention has really diminished the disadvantages of this class of persons almost to a minimum. That such is not the case is vividly suggested by the statistics which a teacher of the deaf-mutes has had the patience to gather. He has counted the average number of words which a pupil in his school wrote or spelled on the fingers per day, and finds it to be 1,118; the teacher similarly employs 216, but uses signs equivalent to 861 words daily. It has been estimated that a mother talks 37,000 words to her child in a day. Making due allowance for the habit of forming only parts of sentences which the deaf-mutes cultivate, and also for the suggestiveness of the sign-language (which hearing people really also use in the form of an expressional accompaniment), the comparative ignorance of the deaf-mutes in conversation and in slow words, with which his mental faculties are brought to

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| | DAIRY | DAIRY | DAIRY |
| Lee's Landing | 7:30 a.m. | 8:00 a.m. | 8:30 a.m. |
| White Sulphur Springs | 11:00 a.m. | 11:30 a.m. | 12:00 p.m. |
| Charlottesville | 1:00 p.m. | 1:30 p.m. | 2:00 p.m. |
| Newport News | 3:00 p.m. | 3:30 p.m. | 4:00 p.m. |
| Old Point Comfort | 5:00 p.m. | 5:30 p.m. | 6:00 p.m. |
| Norfolk | 7:00 p.m. | 7:30 p.m. | 8:00 p.m. |
| Washington | 9:00 p.m. | 9:30 p.m. | 10:00 p.m. |
| Baltimore | 11:25 p.m. | 11:55 p.m. | 12:25 a.m. |
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